

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS SECTION
INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS.

THE COMPREHENSIVE ITEMS

ITEms Edited by: Katie Biggs (Kimley-Horn & Associates) -illinoisite.editor@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE

By Jenna Brose, P.E., PTOE, AECOM

Fellow ITE Illinois Section Members and Supporters,

The Illinois Section of ITE has had a busy start to 2021! On January 13, we held our first ever virtual annual banquet with keynote speaker Vig Krishnamurthy, Deputy Commissioner of Project Development at the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT). Vig gave an insightful presentation highlighting some of CDOT's equity and safety initiatives. At this event, the Section awarded Jamie Simone, Deputy Commissioner for strategic initiatives at CDOT with the newly renamed John LaPlante Past President's Award. We concluded the evening with ITE trivia to incorporate the networking and socializing element that is so valued at our annual banquet.

On February 23rd, we held our first technical event of the year, Objects in Motion: Teaching Transportation Concepts with Interactives, with Dr Lewis Lehe, and on March 16th, our first luncheon, Ford Safety Insights, with guest speakers Andy Palanisamy and Cal Coplai. The events were heavily attended and a good reminder of the critical role ITE serves in keeping our membership up to date in emerging trends and technologies in the industry.



ITE also participated as judges for the Future City Regional Finals and presented at the Chicago Engineers Foundation's Virtual Scholarship Event in late February highlighting the importance that STEM education and student support plays in our organization. On February 25th, we also attended Chicago Engineers Week Awards in support of the industry.

This year, ITE Illinois Section is proud to have two members participating in LeadershipITE, Justin Effinger and Karyn Robles. This is a valuable program put on at a national level, and I'm thrilled to have such strong Illinois Section representation.

I'm excited to serve the Illinois Section as President for 2021, and I can't wait to see what all we can achieve and accomplish together. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity. I've been involved with ITE for over a decade and must say that 2020 was one of the most challenging years we've faced as an organization. I applaud Josh Harris for his ability to adapt and lead in these unprecedented times and look forward to continuing to find the silver linings of the virtual environment. I want to thank our Public Agency and Corporate partners for their unwavering support during these times. We would not be able to provide the events and scholarships that we do without you.

Since so much has changed in the last year, I wanted to kick off 2021 with a membership survey to get a better understanding of what is important to our membership and how we can serve you best. The survey closed last week with a total of 52 respondents. I appreciate everyone that took the time to complete the survey, we are currently reviewing the responses and will use the feedback gathered to navigate the direction of the Section going forward.

I'm looking forward to 2021, and I encourage anyone to please reach out to me if you'd like to get more actively involved or with any questions, comments, or suggestions for the ITE Illinois Section at Illinoisite+president@gmail.com. We are currently seeking candidates for the Great Lakes District Board, please contact me if you'd like further information regarding this.

Sincerely,
Jenna Brose, P.E., PTOE
Illinois Section President
AECOM

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Illinois Section News and Announcements

Operations News and Announcements

By Operations Director Curtis Cornwell

The Illinois Section of ITE would like to welcome our new professional and student members:

Professional Members

Benjamin Chavez, Jr., P.E.
Jeremy Koonce
Kimberly M. Lask, P.E., PTOE
Eric Foytik
John T. Sharkey, P.E.
Mark Toberman, P.E.
Joseph Weesner, P.E.

Student Members

Liyang Home Sun
You Zhou
Xavier Isaias Aviles-Arellano
Monika Filipovska

We encourage all new members to reach out our Operations Chair, Curtis Cornwell at illinoisite+operations@gmail.com if they have any questions.

In addition, The Illinois Section welcomes our new ITEms Newsletter Editor to the team. **Katie Biggs** has taken over the role and brings fresh enthusiasm for the ITEms Newsletter and involvement in the section. Please join me in welcoming Katie!

Technical Group News and Announcements

By Technical Director Andrew Freeman

On February 23rd, ILITE hosted Lewis Lehe, an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UIUC, for a presentation on teaching transportation concepts using interactives. Dr. Lehe discussed why interactives can result in greater understanding of transportation concepts and his experience in their effectiveness. Dr. Lehe's interactives and more information about his work can be found on his website lewislehe.com, and Dr. Lehe's interactives are available for all to use.

A recording of this event can be found on the [LITE YouTube page](#). Recordings of past events, including the 2021 Annual Banquet Keynote Speech and the Designing to Accommodate Bicycle Travel webinar

are available online on the ILITE YouTube page as well. Additionally, there is an upcoming webinar planned for early April, with more details to come as available. If anyone has any comments or recommendations for future events, please reach out to me at illinoisite+technical@gmail.com

Student Affairs News and Announcements

By Student Affairs Director Patrick Jordan

Student Design Competition Kick-Off is now in its 3rd year! The student design competition involves setting a team of 4-5 members from the same school to tackle a unique solution to a transportation problem and creating a pitch to a Mock City Council. The Mock City Council decides which solution to the RFP is the best based on loose design criteria, and the winning team receives gift certificates for each member. April 30th is the registration deadline and kick-off meeting for this project, and the teams will present their solutions (either in a virtual or in-person setting) at the Great Lakes Annual Meeting August 30-31. Please contact Tyler Krage (tkrage@alliant-inc.com) by April 30th to register your team and to get info on the design RFP.

Illinois Section Recent Events

Future City Regional Finals 2020-2021: Living on the Moon

By Public Affairs Director Ashley Hochstatter

The Future City Competition Regional Finals took place virtually in Chicago on Saturday, February 27th. This year's challenge was **Living on the Moon**. Seven (7) schools participated in the virtual event. For the past six years, the Illinois Section of ITE has participated as a special award judge at the Future Cities Competition. **Thomas Szabo**, the current Section Vice President, and **Ashley Hochstatter**, current Public Affairs Committee Chair represented the Illinois Section of ITE this year as special award judges. Thomas and Ashley determined that the winning city deserving of this award was Atlas 11, presented by students from **St. Athanasius School from Evanston, Illinois**. Read more about the event here: [Future City Regional Finals 2020-21: Living On The Moon](#)

Ford Safety Insights Webinar

By Activities Director Justin Effinger

On Tuesday, March 16th, the Illinois Section of ITE, in partnership with ITS Midwest, hosted the March luncheon featuring Andy Palanisamy and Cal Coplai from Ford Mobility as they presented information on their web-based tool, Ford Safety Insights.

Safety planning today is done after crashes have occurred, with out-of-date data that can be inaccessible or scattered across multiple systems. Ford Mobility wanted to create a platform to help transportation professionals streamline their traffic safety analysis and become more proactive, using all available data in a simple, single platform that utilizes industry standards to identify hotspots that need solutions and what those solutions should be.

Ford Safety Insights helps unlock more than just historical crash patterns with Ford's connected vehicle data. It provides insight into driver behavior, distracted driving, and treacherous road conditions. This data can help provide a more comprehensive picture of safety on your roadways. Safety planning can shift into the future, becoming proactive, identifying emerging hotspots of safety events before they manifest into many crashes.

A recording of the webinar can be found here: <https://youtu.be/Pcb0K1J7b40>

ITE News and Announcements

Sam Schwartz New Leadership Roles

Sam Schwartz has announced the creation of several new leadership roles expected to build on and expand the firm's industry-leading offerings in engineering, planning, and design. More information can be found here: [New Leadership Roles: Complete Streets, Electrification, Transportation Planning, and Business Development](#)

Sam Schwartz has announced that Sara Disney Haufe, PE, PTOE, will serve as Director of Traffic Engineering, Chicago. More information can be found here: [Sara Disney Haufe, PE, PTOE, named Director of Traffic Engineering, Chicago](#)

Sad news regarding the passing of Gerald (Jerry) Charles Hoff

Jerry was a long-term member of ITE and the 1989 President of the Illinois Section ITE.

Jerry was born on August 31, 1938 in Waukegan, Illinois to Carl and Lillian (nee Andersen) Hoff. He died Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at his home. Jerry graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS in Civil Engineering and a MS in Urban Traffic and Transportation from Northwestern University. He began his career in public transportation in 1963 working at the Chicago Area Expressway Surveillance Project in Oak Park. Research projects included all phases of freeway operations relating to a central computer-based freeway data acquisition and control system. From 1971 to 1973, he worked for IDOT on their 5-year highway program. He served on Gov. Ogilvie's RTA taskforce in 1974, developing service standards to be used by a regional public transportation authority. As Director of Program Development at the CTA, he was involved in creating many aspects of their capital improvement program such as grant preparation and methods of selecting capital projects. He ended his career at Metra as Department Head of General Development managing Metra's capital program for 14 years. Jerry was active in Arlington Heights, serving on the Planning Commission, and the Board of Local Improvements. He was President of the Surrey Ridge Homeowners Assoc. and helped plan the 4th of the July parade.

Yvonne and Jerry treasured their 20 years at their vacation home on Lake Wisconsin. Jerry often shared his appreciation of the beautiful landscape and interesting history of the Baraboo area with his family and friends.

Professional Development Seminars

TRB Webinars

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) hosts several conference recording and webinars on their website. The recordings and webinars cover a wide range of topics in the transportation field. Select, live webinars are available for Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Check out the TRB Webinar and Conference Recording Program [HERE](#).

ITE Web Seminars

Several ITE webinars are available through the [ITE Learning Hub](#). Log in today to check out upcoming events.

T3 Webinars

Talking Technology and Transportation (T3) Webinars are designed to help agencies feel confident about deploying ITS technologies as a means to address challenges in their transportation systems. These free, 90-minute, interactive online meetings offer knowledge sharing on topics related to ITS planning, design, procurement, deployment, and operations. T3 current and archived webinars are available [HERE](#).

Hey Section Member!

Get involved! There are open positions in the Student Affairs Group, the Activities Group, the Technical Group, and the Public Affairs Group. To volunteer on an ILITE committee, contact the group's director.

Do you have a news-worthy story?

Tell ITEms all about it! Send your article submissions to the editor: Katie Biggs
Illinoisite.editor@gmail.com

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Upcoming ITE Events

Due to COVID-19 and the recommendations from the CDC, the Illinois Section of ITE has decided to not schedule future in-person luncheons, social events, and technical events until further notice.

Be on the look out in the coming weeks for news on this year's annual banquet!

[ILITE Event Calendar](#)

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Refer a Friend!

The Illinois Section will send an issue of ITEms to your friend or business acquaintance who may be interested in joining ITE. Email the contact information to the editor at: Illinoisite.editor@gmail.com

The contact will be provided membership information and acknowledgement of your referral.

ITEms is the official publication of the Illinois Section of ITE. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect official Institute or Illinois Section policy unless so stated.

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ILITE Committees

The success of the Illinois Section is due to the hard work of our volunteers who serve on the Executive Board and as a Committee Chair.

[EXECUTIVE BOARD](#)

[COMMITTEE GROUPS](#)

You can read more about our Committees and the officers' Roles & Responsibilities and download the many materials that they produce to keep our section running by clicking on the link above.

As our committees transition to the new structure outlined in the 2021 Bylaws, be on the look out for more information posted to our website early 2021.



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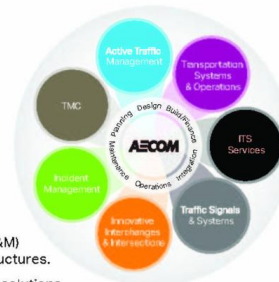
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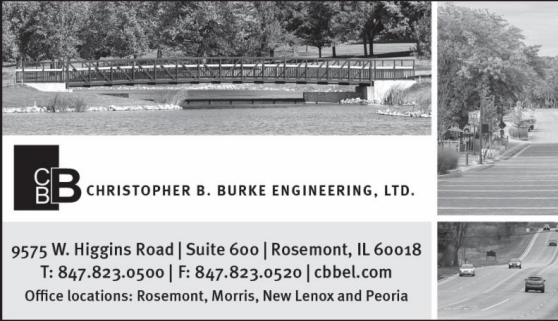
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